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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2004

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Report Highlights:

Export prices for white rice remained unchanged, but fragrant rice prices increased further.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Nov. 8):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	440	430	430	447	412	440	420	431	420
WR 100 B	259	258	258	259	255	259	253	257	257
PB 5%	257	262	263	260	258	264	250	259	259
WR 5%	254	253	255	254	247	254	248	252	252
WR 10%	252	248	252	251	245	252	243	249	249
WR 15%	247	245	248	249	242	250	238	246	245
WR 25%	240	241	244	244	238	235	233	239	238
WR 35%	237	238	-	241	228	233	228	234	234
A 1 SUP	206	208	208	205	205	206	200	205	205
A 1 SPEC	204	207	207	202	203	-	198	204	203
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grades of white rice remained unchanged, except prices for fragrant rice which continued to increase. Trade sources reported that domestic prices of white rice fell some because local rice traders and millers released stocks. However, the strengthening Thai Baht (to around 40.7 Baht/US\$, as compared to the previous week's average of 41.2 Baht/US\$) totally offset a drop in domestic prices. Some foreign buyers reportedly resumed their trading activities. Export prices are expected to increase further in the next couple of weeks, following anticipated demand for white rice shipment for Iraq's latest deal.

The surge in fragrant rice prices mainly reflected the government intervention program, where the intervention prices are set at 9,000 Baht/ton (roughly US\$ 220/MT), up from 7,000 Baht/ton (roughly US\$ 167/MT) in the previous year. However, further increases in export prices will likely be limited, as major buyers, such as China, reportedly shifted to relatively cheaper Pahtumthani fragrant rice.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
SEP 19	174,336	135,781	5,342	3,510
SEP 26	221,118	151,131	5,563	3,524
OCT 3	194,347	175,648	5,757	3,708
OCT 10	198,009	196,953	5,955	3,797
OCT 17	214,774	207,062	6,170	3,912
OCT 24	208,260	203,847	6,378	4,035
OCT 31	235,062	214,026	6,613	4,188
NOV 7	177,334	208,857	6,790	4,318

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Nov. 1-7, 2004 totaled 177,334 tons, down 57,727 tons from the previous week's total and down 31,523 tons from the four-week moving average of 208,857 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Nov. 7, 2004 totaled 6,790,429 tons, compared with 4,318,232 tons during the same period in 2003.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1- Oct. 31, 2004, amounted to 8,311,757 tons, up 39 percent from 5,970,061 tons in the previous year. Despite reportedly anticipated slowdown in Thai rice exports for the rest of the year, total rice exports are expected to reach record 9.7 million tons in CY 2004.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Oct. 11-15, Oct. 18-22, and Oct. 25-29, 2004 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Oct. 11-15	Oct. 18-22	Oct. 25-29
weekly sales	194,022	248,347	188,569
4 week sum	756,551	875,435	769,228
4 week mov. avg.	189,138	218,859	192,307
Total weekly sales	6,938,310	7,186,657	7,375,226

End of Report.